

## GOALS

### Master plan slices golf from options in South Fork Canyon

By Jim Rayburn

4-3-95

Deseret News staff writer

PROVO — When developers proposed a lavish golf resort in South Fork Canyon last year, they were greeted by angry property owners who didn't know if a golf course fit the canyon's makeup.

The proposal was eventually withdrawn, but similar future proposals can expect the same reception. South Fork property owners, Provo, Utah County and the Uinta National Forest recently completed a master plan of the canyon, and golf courses are not in the picture.

"This master plan represents the wishes of the property owners who really want the area to remain pristine," Provo water director Merrill Bingham said.

The master plan not only says golf courses don't belong in the canyon, it also outlines several proposals to make the canyon more accessible to the public, preserve its beauty and improve safety.

"It's a good document and contains a lot of fairly ambitious

In South Fork Canyon, dogs frolic in the stream. A recently completed master plan outlines measures for protecting water in the canyon.



STUART JOHNSON, DESERET NEWS

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ideas," Utah County Engineer Clyde Naylor said.

Private property owners, Provo, the county and the Forest Service will all play a role in accomplishing the master plan goals. The master plan is not binding but will serve as a guiding document for those deciding the canyon's fate. Most agree that the document is only as good as the commitment from government officials to support its goals.

"In some cases it might require funding, and the entities involved have got to be willing to do their part," Provo Councilman Greg Hudnall said.

The master plan outlines goals in land, water and recreational policies. The plan calls for a maintenance program for South Fork Road that would correct hazardous sections of the road and set aside areas for snow storage. One goal is to construct a turnaround and parking area at the end of the road.

The plan also seeks increased law enforcement in the canyon on weekends and holidays. Fire prevention programs and the county's urban fire code should be enforced. Public information signs should be posted at various locations and public telephones installed at the parks. Because the canyon is located in unincorporated Utah County, the county is responsible for road improvements and public safety issues.

"We want to solve the safety issues as bad as any," Naylor said. The plan also calls for the county



## TREE

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counseling session was set up late Monday night at the Provo City Council Chambers for those who witnessed the tragic accident. Paramedics and officers from

Provo, Orem and Utah County responded to the accident. The road to South Fork was closed for more than two hours, and crews remained on the accident scene until about 2 a.m. Tuesday. An investigation into the cause of the accident was continuing Tuesday morning.

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# Big tree falls, kills 2 in Provo Canyon

## Victims are grandma and granddaughter; several are injured

By Jim Rayburn

Deseret News staff writer

6-6-00

PROVO CANYON — An outing in a canyon park turned tragic Monday night when a large cottonwood tree fell over, crushing and killing a woman and her young granddaughter.

As of press time Tuesday the Utah County Sheriff's Office was not releasing the victims' names. Killed were a 6-year-old girl and a 54-year-old woman.

The fallen tree injured several other members of the family, which was celebrating a birthday and picnicking in the park.

"They were just lighting the candles there at a picnic table when the tree came crashing down on them," said Coy Porter, deputy Provo fire chief.

A 4-year-old girl was listed in serious condition Tuesday morning at Primary Children's Medical Center, where she was flown by helicopter following the accident. A 60-year-old man and a 7-year-old girl were treated for injuries at Utah Valley Regional Medical Center and released. A 40-year-old woman was treated at Timpanogos Hospital in Orem for injuries and released.

According to police reports, about 150 people were in the park when just after 9 p.m. the 80-foot tall tree came crashing down on two picnic tables in Big Springs Park. The Provo-owned park is located about two miles up the South Fork of Provo Canyon. The park was busy with several groups holding a variety of activ-



Members of the Provo Fire Department survey the site at Big Springs Park after a tree fell, bringing down branches from another tree.

ities.

"Witnesses said they just heard a loud crack, looked up and the tree came down," Porter said.

The tree is about 3 feet in diameter, Porter said. There was a slight breeze in the canyon at the time but investigators don't know if it contributed to the accident. Investigators believe the tree's

roots, which came completely out of the ground, had rotted.

The tree struck another large tree on its way down, knocking several large limbs out of that tree onto people below. Several people were trapped under the fallen tree and fallen limbs.

A student group from Brigham Young University on an activity in the park

rushed to the scene and began rescuing victims from underneath the tree.

"There were 60 or 70 people there helping to move the tree the best they could," Porter said.

A physician at the scene treated a young boy with a small head wound. A

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